

CAS 7440-38-2

Substance name Arsenic & Arsenic compounds

Toxicity

Arsenic is classified as a carcinogen by a number of authoritative sources.¹⁻⁴ In humans, arsenic exposure has been linked to lung cancer, bladder cancer, skin cancer, and cancers at several other sites in the body. The state of California has identified it as a reproductive toxicant.⁴

Exposure

Historically inorganic arsenic compounds were used in wood preservatives, other pesticides, medicines, metal alloys, and paint pigments.^{5,6} The Danish EPA found arsenic in children's products including 3 of 4 pencil cases and 5 of 7 school bags.⁷

References

1. WHO, International Agency for Research on Cancer. IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans, Supplement No 7: Overall Evaluations of Carcinogenicity: An Updating of IARC Monographs Volumes 1 to 42. 1987.
2. U.S. EPA Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) for Inorganic Arsenic (last revised 1998). <http://www.epa.gov/iris/subst/0278.htm>
3. U.S. DHHS, PHS, National Toxicology Program. Report on Carcinogens, Eleventh Edition. 2005. <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/roc/eleventh/profiles/s015arse.pdf>.
4. California EPA, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. List of Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity. February 5, 2010.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Fourth National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals, December 2009. http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/data_tables/.
6. U.S. EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs, Pesticide registration, Organic Arsenicals, October 2009. http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/organic_arsenicals_fs.html.
7. Danish Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Protection Agency. Surveys on Chemicals in consumer products. Report 84, 2007. http://www.mst.dk/English/Chemicals/Consumer_Products/Surveys-on-chemicals-in-consumer-products.htm.